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COUNTRY PROFILE | President's Malaria Initiative (PMI)

UGANDA

MAY 2006



At a glance: Malaria in Uganda

Population: 28.2 million

Life expectancy at birth: 52 years (men), 54 years (women)¹

Reported malaria cases (2003): 12.3 million²

Under-5 mortality rate: 160/1,000 or approximately 1 in 6 children³

Background

Malaria is endemic in 95 percent of Uganda, where more than 1.6 million people have been displaced by two decades of civil war in the northern part of the country. Malaria is the leading cause of illness and death in the country, and it is responsible for up to 40 percent of hospital outpatient visits, 25 percent of hospital admissions, and 14 percent of hospital deaths. Nearly half of hospital inpatient deaths among children under age five are attributable to malaria.

Uganda is one of three first-round target countries benefiting from the U.S. President's Malaria Initiative (PMI), a five-year \$1.2 billion initiative led by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), in conjunction with the Department of Health and Human Services (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention), the Department of State, and the White House. PMI's long-term goal is to cut malaria deaths by 50 percent in 15 African countries by providing lifesaving services, supplies, and medicines to 85 percent of those most vulnerable to malaria – children under five years of age and pregnant women.

In support of Uganda's Ministry of Health and in coordination with international and national development organizations, nongovernmental organizations, faith-based organizations, and the private sector, the Initiative supports four key tools to prevent and treat malaria:

- Spraying with insecticides ("indoor residual spraying," or IRS) in communities
- Insecticide-treated bednets (ITNs)
- Lifesaving drugs
- Treatment for pregnant women ("intermittent preventive treatment," or IPT)

2006 Results to Date

■ **ITNs in displaced person camps:** To address the alarming rates of malaria mortality in internally displaced person (IDP) camps in northern Uganda, PMI began distribution of long-lasting insecticide-treated nets (LLINs), free of charge, to children and pregnant women. By the end of March 2006, PMI provided approximately 219,000 LLINs through house-to-house distribution methods and through antenatal care clinics, benefiting approximately 300,000 people.

■ **Treatment drugs:** PMI procured 298,000 pediatric doses of artemisinin-based combination therapy drugs for free distribution to treatment sites in IDP camps beginning in May 2006.

¹ CIA World Factbook

² 2005 World Malaria Report; WHO/Roll Back Malaria

³ UNICEF

- **Other LLIN distribution:** In early 2006, PMI purchased and distributed 60,000 free LLINs in five districts with historically low bednet coverage rates.
- **ITN sales:** PMI support for local commercial ITN distributors, which included credit guarantees to establish a regional warehouse and communication and information campaigns, resulted in the sale of 373,000 ITNs via the commercial sector.

PMI Funding

In fiscal year 2006, PMI set aside \$9.5 million in funding for malaria prevention and treatment in Uganda.

Upcoming Activities

- **ITN re-treatments:** As of May 2006, PMI is supporting the re-treatment of 715,000 ITNs with insecticide in 19 districts. The campaign will benefit more than 1.1 million people.
- **IRS:** Beginning in June 2006, PMI will support an IRS campaign in Kabale district in southwestern Uganda to provide coverage for about 500,000 people. PMI is currently training 373 sprayers and supervisors to implement the program.